

Japanese Anime: Reviews and Resources

Compiled by Robin Brenner, Brookline Public Library * March 2010

Professional Print Reviews

Book Industry

ICv2 Guide

www.icv2.com

This guide, an offshoot of the excellent website ICv2.com, is specifically courting the library market, and the librarian and expert-authored reviews alongside in depth information on the market as a whole is a unique and valuable resource. The Guide features anime, manga, and games equally.

Video Librarian

Anime Industry

Otaku USA

www.otakuusamagazine.com

This slick look into the world of anime and manga can be very fan-centric, but the folks behind it are some of the best writers in the business, and they definitely have their finger on the pulse of what your patrons are buzzed about.

Protoculture Addicts

http://www.protoculture.ca/Proto/index.htm

This print journal, related to the Anime News Network website and one of the oldest anime magazines in North America, features in depth reviews and articles from the fan point of view. Valuable for understanding the older generation of fans.

Shonen Jump

Although this magazine is mostly an anthology of the latest manga and anime for teen guys, their reviews and pop culture articles give important insight to the fans who tear these magazines apart every month. These are the most read in my collection.

Online Reviews and Resources

Anime Café: A Parent's Guide to Anime

www.abcb.com/parents

For parents and librarians looking for anime in particular age ranges, this excellent site provides in-depth reviews and rates anime using the familiar MPAA system.

The Anime News Network

www.animenewsnetwork.com

One-stop shopping for any anime series. The main site provides daily news and commentary on the anime industry, both in Japan and in the United States, as well as timely, substantial reviews. The online encyclopedia has detailed information about each series, including original release dates, genres, audience recommendations, and production notes. Links relate manga and anime series and provide context for each title.

The Anime News Network Encyclopedia

Manga titles

www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/manga.php

Anime titles

www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/anime.php

Upcoming Releases

www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/releases.php

Top Ten

www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/ratings-anime.php

These subsections of the Anime News Network site are invaluable for checking on individual titles, who distributes them, how many volumes to expect, and what the upcoming releases are in different formats including manga, DVD, and VHS.

Mania.com

www.mania.com

Very similar to Anime News Network, Mania (previously known as AnimeonDVD) features news, reviews, and commentary. This site, unlike ANN, has references for titles outside Japan – so Korean manhwa and Chinese manhua. Their anime reviews are extensive and detailed and give a good sense of what you're getting from each title. The new site is harder to navigate, but still valuable.

Popcultureshock

www.popcultureshock.com

This excellent site gives you a round up of what's happening in comics, manga, and anime. The intelligent reviews are critical while at the same time aware of what their audience is looking for, and the range of what they cover makes it great one stop shop.

The Librarian's Guide to Anime

www.koyagi.com/Libguide.html

Gilles Poitras is well known for his print guides (see **Books**), and this web site complements his books by providing comprehensive advice on collecting anime, including cataloging tips, preferred terms and vocabulary, and recommended further reading.

* = great for middle school

bolded titles = great for showing at teen anime clubs

To contact me for advice or information, please email me at robin@noflyingnotights.com

Online News

ICv2

<http://www.icv2.com>

This pop culture industry website is the place to go for industry news especially for statistics and market information. Their excellent print Guides on anime and manga provide an up-to-date look at the state of each industry, the best-selling titles, and the latest trends.

Online Anime Crunchyroll

www.crunchyroll.com

This website is, for many fans, the place to go to watch streaming anime online. With companies direct from Japan streaming shows right after they air in Japan, this is an innovative new service that caters directly to impatient anime fans.

Funimation

funimation.com

One of the biggest distributors of anime in the US, Funimation offers a wide array of their titles online via Youtube and their own online viewers.

Hulu

www.hulu.com

Hulu, though mainly known for hosting a wide range of current and past TV shows, also has an Anime channel. Right now, the big two anime companies, Funimation and VIZ, are hosting shows on Hulu.

iTunes

www.itunes.com

iTunes has the major advantage over the other two sites in that it allows users to purchase and download anime. Funimation now has an iTunes store, and Starz hosts Manga Entertainment titles.

VIZ Anime

VIZanime.com

Just launched, VIZ owns many of the hottest manga and anime properties, and now fans can view the latest episodes of theirs series online for free.

Books

The Anime Encyclopedia: A Guide to Japanese Animation Since 1917.

ISBN 978-1-933330-10-5.

ed. by Jonathan Clements & Helen McCarthy

With entries identifying over 2000 feature films and TV series, this encyclopedia covers a century of anime history and is a great resource for basic information on a variety of works. Trends and themes are highlighted as well as titles.

Understanding Manga and Anime

By Robin Brenner

ISBN: 978-1-59158-332-5

This is my own guide to the wide and complex world of Japanese manga and anime, for anyone curious about the medium.

Anime Explosion! The What? Where? and Wow! of Japanese Animation.

By Patrick Drazen

ISBN 978-1-880656-72-3

In the first half of this title, pop culture academic Drazen explores the characters, themes, and styles that recur in anime. He devotes the book's second half to examining classic examples from films and TV series and provides illuminating insight into each. Great for fans who are in between novice and expert.

Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation.

By Susan Napier

ISBN 978-1-4039-7052-7

This classic, revised in 2005, is an excellent introduction to the history, style, and breadth of Japanese anime. Each academic essay focuses on different themes, from gender to magical girls to anime's take on history, and Napier reports on it all with clear and insightful prose.

Watching Anime, Reading Manga: 25 Years of Essays and Reviews.

By Fred Patten

ISBN 978-1-880656-92-1

Patten, a longtime anime and manga fan, gathers 25 years' of his essays and reviews. His collection follows the growth of the industry and its fandom, including the quirks, and provides an update on the field.

The Anime Companion: What's Japanese in Japanese Animation.

The Anime Companion 2: More...What's Japanese in Japanese Animation.

By Gilles Poitras

Volume 1: ISBN 978-1-880656-32-7

Volume 2: ISBN 978-1-880656-96-9

Anime Essentials: Every Thing a Fan Needs To Know.

ISBN 978-1-880656-53-2.

From foods characters eat and common sounds to the finer points of anime fan culture, these relatively slim and easy-to-read paperbacks by a San Francisco librarian pack a lot of detail, making them especially appealing to general readers looking for more basic info and less academic discussion.

Japanese Anime: Notable and Core Titles

Compiled by Robin Brenner, Brookline Public Library * May 2009

For Teens

TV Series

.hack//Roots (Bandai)
.hack//SIGN (Bandai)*
Ah! My Goddess (Media Blasters)
Aria: The Animation (Right Stuf)*
BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad (Funimation)
Big O (Bandai)
Black Cat (Funimation)
Bleach (VIZ)
Boogiepop Phantom (Right Stuf)
Boys Over Flowers (VIZ)
Buso Renkin (VIZ)
Case Closed (Funimation) *
Ceres Celestial Legend (VIZ)
Death Note (VIZ)
Descendants of Darkness (Central Park Media)
Dragonball (Funimation)
Dragonball Z (Funimation)
Elemental Gelade (Funimation)
Emma: A Victorian Romance (Right Stuf)
Eureka Seven (Bandai)
Flame of Recca (VIZ)
FLCL (Funimation)
Full Metal Panic! (Funimation)
Full Moon O Sagashite (VIZ)
Fullmetal Alchemist (Funimation)
Gakuen Alice (Right Stuf)*
Galaxy Railways (Funimation)
Gankutsuou: The Count of Monte Cristo (Funimation)
Grave of the Fireflies (Central Park Media)
Gravitation (Right Stuf)
Gurren Lagann (Bandai)
Hell Girl (Funimation)
Here is Greenwood (Media Blasters)
Hikaru no Go (VIZ)*
His and Her Circumstances (Right Stuf)
Honey and Clover (VIZ)
Hunter X Hunter (VIZ)
Irresponsible Captain Tylor (Right Stuf)
Kaleido Star (ADV)*
Kino's Journey (Section 23)
Knight Hunters (Weiss Krauss) (Media Blasters)
Kodocha (Funimation)
Kyo Kara Maoh! (Funimation)
Loveless (Media Blasters)
Magic Knight Rayearth (Media Blasters)
MÄR (VIZ)
Mobile Suit Gundam (Bandai)
Mushishi (Funimation)
Nana (VIZ)
Naruto (VIZ)
Negima (Funimation)
Noein (Manga)
Otogi Zoshi (Media Blasters)
Ouran High School Host Club (Funimation)

Paradise Kiss (Funimation)
Peach Girl (Funimation)
Planetes (Bandai)
Prince of Tennis (VIZ)*
Princess Tutu (ADV)*
Pumpkin Scissors (Funimation)
Ranma 1/2 (VIZ)
Record of Lodoss War (Central Park Media)
Revolutionary Girl Utena (Central Park Media)
Romeo x Juliet (Funimation) (upcoming release)
Rurouni Kenshin (Media Blasters)
Samurai 7 (Funimation)
Samurai Champloo (Bandai)
Samurai Deeper Kyo (Media Blasters)
School Rumble (Funimation)
Scrapped Princess (Bandai)
S-CRY-ed (Bandai)
Serial Experiments Lain (Geneon, out of print)
Shadow Star Narutaru (Central Park Media)
Shakugan no Shana (Funimation)
Shonen Onmyoji (Funimation) (upcoming release)
Slayers (Central Park Media)
Spiral (Funimation)*
Story of Saiunkoku (Funimation)
Super GALS (Right Stuf)
Tactics (Manga)
Toward the Terra (Right Stuf)
Tsubasa: Reservoir Chronicles (Funimation)
Twelve Kingdoms (Media Blasters)*
Vision of Escaflowne (Bandai)
Wallflower (Funimation)
Whisper of the Heart (Disney/Buena Vista)*
Witch Hunter Robin (Bandai)
Wolf's Rain (Bandai)
XXXholic (Funimation)
Yu Yu Hakusho (Funimation)

Feature Films

Appleseed (Manga)
Boogiepop Phantom: Boogiepop and Others (Right Stuf)
CLAMP Double Feature: XXXholic & Tsubasa: Reservoir Chronicles (Funimation)*
Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children (Sony)
Fullmetal Alchemist: The Conqueror of Shamballa (Funimation)
Grave of the Fireflies (Central Park Media)
Howl's Moving Castle (Disney/Buena Vista)*
Kakurenbo (Central Park Media)
Lupin II: The Castle of Cagliostro (Manga)
Lupin III movies (Funimation)
Metropolis (Sony)
Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Disney/Buena Vista)*
Princess Mononoke (Disney/Buena Vista)
Read or Die (Manga)
Revolutionary Girl Utena (Central Park Media)

* = great for middle school **bolded titles** = great for showing at teen anime clubs

To contact me for advice or information, please email me at robin@noflyingnotights.com

Spirited Away (Disney/Buena Vista)*

Steamboy (Sony)*

Tokyo Godfathers (Sony)

Toward the Terra (Right Stuf)

Voices of a Distant Star (ADV, out of print)

Live Action, Related Feature Films

Death Note (VIZ)

Death Note 2 (VIZ)

Honey & Clover (VIZ)

Love*Com (VIZ)

Nana (VIZ)

For Kids

TV Series

.hack//SIGN (Bandai)

Angelic Layer (Funimation)

Aria: The Animation (Right Stuf)

Astro Boy (Right Stuf)

Case Closed (Funimation)

Gakuen Alice (Right Stuf)

Kaleido Star (ADV)

Feature Films

Castle in the Sky (Disney/Buena Vista)

Cat Returns (Disney/Buena Vista)

Kiki's Delivery Service (Disney/Buena Vista)

My Neighbor Totoro (Disney/Buena Vista)

Spirited Away (Disney/Buena Vista)

For Adults

TV Series

Afro Samurai (Funimation)

Aquarion (Funimation)

Baccano! (Funimation)

Berzerk (Media Blasters)

Chevalier D'Eon (Funimation)

Claymore (Funimation)

Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion (Bandai)

Cowboy Bebop (Bandai)

Darker than Black (Funimation)

Elfen Lied (ADV)

Ergo Proxy (Funimation)

Flag (Bandai)

Gankutsuou: The Count of Monte Cristo (Funimation)

Gantz (ADV)

Genshiken (Media Blasters)

Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex (Bandai)

Great Teacher Onizuka (GTO) (Funimation)

Gunslinger Girl (Funimation)

Loveless (Media Blasters)

Mirage of Blaze (Media Blasters)

Paranoia Agent (Geneon, out of print)

Revolutionary Girl Utena (Central Park Media)

Samurai Champloo (Bandai)

Serial Experiments Lain (Geneon, out of print)

Speed Grapher (Funimation)

Suzuka (Funimation)

Tekkonkinkreet (Sony)

Witch Hunter Robin (Bandai)

Witchblade (Funimation)

Wolf's Rain (Bandai)

Feature Films

Akira (Manga)

Appleseed (Manga)

Blood: The Last Vampire (Manga)

Cowboy Bebop: Knockin' on Heaven's Door (Sony)

Ghost in the Shell (Manga)

Ghost in the Shell: Innocence (Manga)

Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex: Solid State Society (Manga)

Grave of the Fireflies (Central Park Media)

Metropolis (Sony)

Millennium Actress (Dreamworks)

Paprika (Sony)

Perfect Blue (Manga)

Read or Die (Manga)

Revolutionary Girl Utena (Central Park Media)

Samurai X (Rurouni Kenshin)

Tekkonkinkreet (Sony)

Tokyo Godfathers (Sony)